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DE Dept of Finance Suspects Irregularities in Unclaimed Property Refunds

The Delaware Department of Finance Secretary has asked the Delaware State Police to investigate the matter.

By Joe LeCompte 1450 Wilm Newsradio
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The State Department of Finance, which controls unclaimed property, ranging from old bank accounts to state tax refund money, recently received word from the State auditor's office about a tip regarding suspected irregularities in the processing of some claims.

Department of Finance Spokesman, Patrick Carter says, State Secretary of Finance, Richard Cordrey, felt a further probe was warranted. "After looking at various documents, we came to the point where we had what we thought were some suspicious claims and were unable to determine if there was a real criminal problem or not, and decided to turn the material over to the State Police."

Carter could not comment on who, if anyone, is being investigated or suspected of wrongdoing. Until the State Police investigation is concluded, Secretary Cordrey ordered that all claim payments be suspended, an outside senior manager from another Division of the Revenue evaluate the situation and suggest improvements for procedures and processes. He's also requested a national accounting firm perform an on-site review of current procedures and workflow, and informed the State Auditor that the Delaware State Police are now handling the investigation.

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